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## News Release

**For Immediate Release: December 7, 2017**

### **Durham Police Employees Support Residents During Holidays**

During the holiday season Durham Police Department (DPD) employees heighten their demonstration of the department's community-oriented policing philosophy. The holidays inspire police officers and non-sworn personnel across the department to support various charitable, educational and recreational efforts as part of the department's annual holiday initiatives.

Toy drives, food drives, shopping sprees and holiday safety campaigns are among the heart gifts Durham Police Department employees are giving to the Durham community this season.

#### **Charitable Outreach**

##### **Forensics Division's Toys for Tots Drive (Ended Thursday, Dec. 7)**

Forensics Division employees collected toys and monetary donations to benefit the local USMC "Toys for Tots" program. The division held a Crockpot Chili Fundraiser and raised more than \$200 and collected nine toys to support the campaign.

##### **Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 to 11 a.m. – FOP, COPS and Kids Christmas Shopping Event** *(invitation only event)*

This event is hosted by the Durham County Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge No. 2 in collaboration with the Durham Rescue Mission and Target. With Durham's finest serving as shopping assistants, recipient families and children enjoy a shopping spree courtesy of the FOP.

##### **Wednesday, Dec. 13 – Property and Evidence's Share Your Christmas and Bike Giveaway**

For the fifth consecutive year, the Property and Evidence Unit will support a disadvantaged Durham family in need with gifts through the Volunteer Center of Greater Durham's Share Your Christmas program. The unit will dress up in Santa Claus hats and deliver items on Dec. 13.

On Dec. 1, Property and Evidence donated 41 bikes to three local nonprofits – Love and Respect, Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club and The Scrap Exchange.

##### **Saturday, Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Police Explorers Christmas Party**

The Community Service Division will celebrate the season with food, fun and fellowship with members of its Police Explorers Post 357. Police Explorers is a career-oriented program that

gives youth and young adults (ages 14 to 20) the opportunity to explore a career in law enforcement by working with local law enforcement agencies.

#### **Friday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m. – BCERT Animal Protection Society Donation**

The Biological-Chemical Emergency Response Team (BCERT) is assisting the Animal Protection Society (APS) of Durham with basic needs this holiday season. Officers will deliver collected food and supplies to the APS on Friday, December 22, at 2 p.m.

#### **Thursday, Dec. 28 – American Heart Association Donation**

District 2-B Squad has chosen “Little Hats, Big Hearts” as the focus for their holiday initiative. Officers placed donation boxes in each DPD substation and at Headquarters to collect red handmade preemie and newborn size hats. Donations will be collected on December 28 for delivery to the local American Heart Association. The hats will ultimately be distributed to hospitals in the Durham area.

#### **Turkey Donation**

Officers in squad 1-B purchased turkeys for the Durham Rescue Mission’s Thanksgiving Dinner. The squad contributed seven turkeys on Nov. 20. The squad is also taking part in the Angel Tree Project, which purchases holiday gifts for terminally ill children.

#### **District 5’s Share Your Christmas Support**

Staff of the Special Services Division will sponsor six families in need who are participants in the Volunteer Center’s Share Your Christmas program.

#### **Helping Hand from District 1**

District 1 Community Liaison Officer Terry Janifer is providing clothing and gift cards to two individuals in need as her holiday community outreach project.

#### **NCCU Campus Pantry Donation Drive**

Police employees who attended North Carolina Central University will be collecting non-perishable food for the NCCU Food Pantry throughout December.

### **Holiday Safety Campaigns**

- Throughout December, the Community Resource Unit will conduct safety outreach events at various retail hubs across Durham. Officers will pass out holiday safety tips fliers in English and Spanish, as well as inventory forms to properly document household and personal valuables.
- Panhandlers in the roadways in District 3 have been putting themselves at risk and violating laws. The Crisis Intervention Team has recently been deployed to make contact and offer services to individuals panhandling throughout the district. As a continuation of a panhandling operation already in progress in District 3, throughout the holidays officers will heighten activities and address violations of the panhandling regulations.

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